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1	ensure that you're competent to plead guilty.
2	First of all, I'll just ask how old are you?
3	THE WITNESS: Twenty-nine, ma'am.
4	THE COURT: How far did you go in school?
5	THE DEFENDANT: Ninth grade.
6	THE COURT: Have you ever been treated or hospitalized
7	for mental illness?
8	THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am.
9	THE COURT: Have you ever been addicted to drugs or to
10	alcohol?
11	THE DEFENDANT: Marijuana, ma'am.
12	THE COURT: Have you ever had any treatment for that?
13	THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am.
14	THE COURT: Is there anything about that that affects
15	your ability here in court today to understand what's
16	happening?
17	THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am.
18	THE COURT: In the past 24 hours, have you taken any
19	drugs, medicine, or pills or drunk any alcoholic beverages?
20	THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am.
21	THE COURT: Is your mind clear today?
22	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
23	THE COURT: Does either counsel have any doubt as to
24	the defendant's competence to plead?
25	MS. MAIMAN: No, your Honor.
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1	guilty.
2	So even if you did nothing or said nothing at trial,
3	you could not be convicted unless a jury of 12 people agreed
4	unanimously that you are guilty.
5	Do you understand that?
6	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
7	THE COURT: During the trial, the witnesses for the
8	prosecution would have to come to court and testify in your
9	presence where you could see them and hear them and your lawyer
10	could cross-examine them.
11	If you wanted to, your lawyer could offer evidence on
12	your behalf. You would be able to use the Court's power to
13	compel witnesses to come to court and testify truthfully in
14	your defense even if they didn't want to come.
15	Do you understand that?
16	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
17	THE COURT: At trial you would have the right to
18	testify if you wanted to, but you would also have the right not
19	to testify. If you chose not to testify, that could not be
20	used against you in any way. So no inference or suggestion of
21	guilt could be made from the fact that you chose not to
22	testify.
23	Do you understand that?
24	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
25	THE COURT: At trial and at every stage of your case,

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1	provision of the law it's 18 U.S. Code, Section 3553(a)
2	even if that's higher or lower than the guidelines
3	recommendation.
4	Do you understand that?
5	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
6	THE COURT: Have you discussed the sentencing
7	guidelines with your attorney?
8	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
9	THE COURT: Do you understand that they are only
10	recommendations to the Court?
11	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
12	THE COURT: I understand that you have entered into a
13	written plea agreement with the government, and I have a draft
14	of that agreement. I'm going to mark this as Court Exhibit 2.
15	It's a May 4 letter addressed to Mr. De Vita and signed by
16	Ms. Maiman, as well as a supervisor in her office.
17	Is that your signature on the last page?
18	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
19	THE COURT: Did you read the agreement before you
20	signed it?
21	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
22	THE COURT: Did you discuss it with your attorney?
23	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
24	THE COURT: I realize it's a long document, and it
25	contains some technical legal language. But, after discussing
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1	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
2	THE COURT: Does this written plea agreement
3	constitute the entirety of your agreement with the government?
4	I mean, is this it? Is this your whole agreement? There's
5	nothing else other than this agreement; is that right?
6	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
7	THE COURT: Did you willingly sign the plea agreement?
8	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
9	THE COURT: Did anyone threaten, bribe, or force you
10	to sign the plea agreement or to plead guilty?
11	THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am.
12	THE COURT: Other than what's in the plea agreement,
13	has anyone offered you any inducement to plead guilty?
14	THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am.
15	THE COURT: Has anyone made a promise to you as to
16	what your sentence will be?
17	THE DEFENDANT: No, ma'am.
18	THE COURT: You should understand, of course, that if
19	anyone attempted to predict what your sentence will be, that
20	their prediction could be wrong.
21	Do you understand that?
22	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
23	THE COURT: So even if your sentence is different from
24	what you may have expected or someone predicted, once you've
25	pleaded guilty, you won't be allowed to withdraw your plea.
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1	Do you understand that?
2	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
3	THE COURT: So now that you've been advised of the
4	charges against you and the possible penalties you face as well
5	as the rights you're giving up, is it still your intention to
6	plead guilty?
7	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
8	THE COURT: So now I'm going to ask you the official
9	question with respect to Count One of the superseding
10	indictment.
11	How do you plead to that charge?
12	THE DEFENDANT: Guilty.
13	THE COURT: I'm sorry. As to the superseding
14	information.
15	THE DEFENDANT: Guilty, ma'am.
16	THE COURT: Do you admit or deny the forfeiture
17	allegation in the superseding information?
18	THE DEFENDANT: Yes. I'll admit to what happened.
19	THE COURT: And to the forfeiture allegation. Is that
20	right?
21	THE DEFENDANT: Yes, ma'am.
22	THE COURT: So tell me, in your own words, what you
23	did that makes you believe that you're guilty of this crime.
24	MR. DE VITA: Your Honor, Mr. Thomas and I have
25	collaborated, and we have prepared a written statement to read
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1	to the Court.
2	THE COURT: You can read a statement to me,
3	Mr. Thomas.
4	THE DEFENDANT: In October 2007, I participated with
5	one or another person in an attempted robbery at 3140 Decatur
6	Avenue in The Bronx where we believed drugs were being sold.
7	During the course of the robbery, shots were fired and
8	the victim, who I now know to be Jermaine Pratt, was hit. We
9	ran from the scene after the shot was fired.
10	THE COURT: Is the defendant contesting the interstate
11	element?
12	MR. DE VITA: Yes, your Honor. I think the
13	understanding being a drug scene provides the interstate
14	commerce connection.
15	THE COURT: Are there any additional questions the
16	government would like me to ask?
17	MS. MAIMAN: No, your Honor. Just to clarify I
18	don't think there's any dispute about this when the
19	defendant says shots were fired, it was a coconspirator of the
20	defendant who shot the victim in this case.
21	THE COURT: Thank you. Could you please summarize
22	what the government's evidence would be if you were to go to
23	trial.
24	MS. MAIMAN: Certainly. If this case went to trial,
25	the government would prove through DNA evidence and the
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rules and practices in criminal cases. Consistent with those

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